

CONCLUSIONS

All three approaches to the risk assessment indicated a significant percentage of homes in Bonner County are at high risk from wildfire. Based on past trends, the population of Bonner County will increase to 50,000 by the year 2010. The majority of these new immigrants are expected to reside in the wildland urban interface, adding to the potential for the loss of life and property in the event of a wildfire.

The risk to life and property can be reduced through implementation of a comprehensive mitigation action plan. This document presents such a plan. The implementations strategy includes:

- a) Fostering of public awareness through the implementation of a comprehensive education program.
- b) Reduction of the physical threat of wildfire through the use of hazardous fuels treatment projects. Fuels treatment projects should include strategically placed community fuel breaks coordinated with hazardous fuels treatment work done on state and federal lands. While the larger fuel break projects will provide some protection it is also necessary for homeowners to create defensible/survivable space around their homes to ensure adequate protection from wildfire. The Bonner County **BONFIRE** Program will provide an opportunity for property owners to develop defensible space around their dwellings at little or no cost to the owner.
- c) Enhancement of fire agencies ability to respond to, and suppress, wildfires in the Wildland Urban Interface through training, and acquisition of equipment and facilities.
- d) Coordination of hazardous fuels treatment projects with state and federal fire agencies.

This mitigation plan marks the beginning of a countywide effort to reduce the risk to life and property from wildfire. It will require a cooperative effort between federal, state and local fire agencies and the citizens of Bonner County to attain this goal and maintain a fire safe environment for all into the future.